

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0230

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: POLICE ARREST BOMBING INCIDENT SUSPECTS

REFS: TOKYO 2668 AND 2741

SUMMARY: TOKYO POLICE MAY 19 ARRESTED SEVEN SUSPECTS INVOLVED IN APRIL 19 BOMBING INCIDENT IN CENTRAL TOKYO. PROBABLE LEADER OF GROUP DIED OF UNDISCLOSED CAUSE WHILE IN POLICE CUSTODY. ARRESTS REPRESENT MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH, BUT POLICE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ACT LATER AFTER IMPLICATING OTHERS INVOLVED IN TOTAL OF ELEVEN BOMBING INCIDENTS IN TOKYO AREA SINCE AUGUST 1974. END SUMMARY.

1. TOKYO POLICE, IN PRE-DAWN RAID MAY 19 IN 18 PLACES IN TOKYO METROPOLITAN AREA, SUCCEEDED IN ARRESTING SEVEN YOUNG SUSPECTS BELIEVED INVOLVED IN APRIL 19 BOMBING OF A BUSINESS FIRM, SOUTH KOREA INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, IN CENTRAL TOKYO.

2. ALL SEVEN, FIVE MEN AND TWO WOMEN IN THEIR MIDDLE TWENTIES, WERE LEADING APPARENTLY NORMAL MIDDLECLASS LIVES. POSSIBLE LEADER OF THE GROUP, NODAKA SAITO (27), WAS A WAITER. HE BECAME VIOLENTLY ILL SHORTLY AFTER

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ARREST AND DIED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER IN POLICE HOSPITAL

OF AS YET UNDISCLOSED CAUSE. OTHERS WERE: SAITO'S COMMON-LAW WIFE YUKIKO EKITA (24), A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN; NORIO SASAKI (26), WHITE COLLAR WORKER; YOSHIMASA KUROKAWA (27), SALESMAN; TOSHIAKI KATAOKA (26), INDUSTRIAL TECHNICIAN; MASASHI DAIDOJI (26) AND HIS WIFE AYAKO DAIDOJI, BOTH WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS. SAITO, SASAKI, KUROKAWA, AND TAKAOKA HAD POLICE RECORDS MAINLY FOR MISDEMEANORS. REMAINING THREE HAD NONE.

3. POLICE DISCLOSED THAT SUSPECTS BELONG TO ANARCHIST GROUP SEEKING REVOLUTION IN THIRD WORLD WHICH PREVIOUSLY USED APPELATION: "TOKYO ACTIVE BATTLEFRONT" (TOKYO KODO SENSEN). PRESENT NAME NOT YET KNOWN, BUT POLICE SUSPECT (WITHOUT FIRM EVIDENCE AS YET) THAT GROUP MAY BE PART OF LARGER GROUP OF PERHAPS 20 TO 30 MEMBERS IN ALL WHICH, UNDER VARIOUS NAMES SUCH AS EAST ASIA ANTI-JAPANESE ARMED FRONT OR "FANG OF THE EARTH" (REFTELS), HAS CARRIED OUT ELEVEN BOMBING INCIDENTS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS WITH OVERSEAS OPERATIONS, BEGINNING WITH AUGUST 1974 BOMBING OF MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES. POLICE SUSPECT TOP LEADER TO BE MIDDLE-AGED PERSON WHO WROTE THE GROUP'S OPERATIONAL MANUAL, "HARA HARA DOKEI" (BELLY BELLY CLOCK), IN STILTED PREWAR STYLE.

4. WHILE MAY 19 ARRESTS REPRESENT MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH, POLICE TOLD EMBASSY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED CONTINUE SURVEILLANCE TO IMPLICATE THOSE INVOLVED IN BOMBING OPERATIONS BESIDES APRIL 19 INCIDENT. POLICE SAID THEY WERE FORCED TO ACT PREMATURELY ON MAY 19 BECAUSE OF PRESS LEAK.
HODGSON

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